

TG 197

Guide for Developing Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans at Army Installations



December 1999

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PREFACE

Regulatory directions and public opinion are placing increased emphasis on solid waste management and recycling issues. Industry, consumers, and government entities are being forced to evaluate their solid waste management practices and increase the extent of their source reduction, recycling/resource recovery programs, and procurement of products with recovered materials. In most states, the counties are required to develop integrated solid waste management plans (ISWMPs). County plans sometimes include data for Army installations, but do not provide a detailed assessment of solid waste management on the installations. Army regulations require each installation to develop an ISWMP. The process of developing the ISWMP requires thorough evaluation of all aspects of solid waste management, resulting in meaningful planning and goal setting.

"Integrated" solid waste management reflects the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's pollution prevention hierarchy, which includes (in preferential order) source reduction, recycling, treatment, and disposal. To fully integrate the waste management system, purchasing of recycled content products, or Affirmative Procurement, is needed to stimulate markets for recycled goods. Therefore, the ISWMP addresses each of these components. It identifies source reduction measures that may be used to reduce the waste stream. It defines the various elements of the waste stream and identifies the avenues of reuse, recycling or disposal for each. It closes the circle on recycling by incorporating Affirmative Procurement into contracting and purchasing. It documents correct procedures for all aspects of solid waste management including storage, collection, segregation, transportation, treatment, recycling, and disposal. It presents factors potentially affecting solid waste management, and lists alternatives and contingency plans for future consideration. It assigns responsibilities and tasks to installation personnel for the effective execution of the solid waste programs.

The decisions involved in solid waste management today are diverse and far-reaching. Should we contract disposal or operate an onsite landfill? Will recycling pay or cost us? Which recyclables should be included in the recycling program? Should we build an incinerator or utilize regional disposal facilities? How can we motivate personnel to implement source reduction practices? What systemic changes must be made to follow Affirmative Procurement guidelines?

Although many installations are faced with such questions, it is beyond the scope of this guide to provide the necessary analysis and decision-making tools. Factors affecting solid waste decisions will vary with location, state legislation, recyclable markets, type of facility, population, and mission, to name a few. This technical guide is meant to provide Army installations with a generic framework for developing a complete and effective ISWMP. Decision-making, policy, and planning factors are provided for consideration where applicable.

Finally, the following objectives should be kept in mind when preparing the ISWMP:

- Complying with applicable Federal, state, local, and Army regulations regarding solid waste management and recycling.
- Achieving waste reduction goals set by the Army, the Department of Defense, and the state and Federal governments.
- Characterizing the types and amounts of solid waste (including non-regulated or special wastes, potential recyclables, and construction debris) generated through standardized data collection procedures.
- Describing the storage, collection, transportation, and disposal for each category of solid waste identified.
- Demonstrating that alternate disposal mechanisms have been identified and evaluated prior to the selection of the preferred disposal method.
- Evaluating future disposal options based on changes in waste generation, governing regulations, and/or the availability of regional disposal facilities.
- Assessing recycling and composting programs and identifying ways to improve the programs.
- Determining the status of the Affirmative Procurement program and developing strategies aimed at full compliance with procurement guidelines.
- Maximizing purchases of environmentally preferable products.